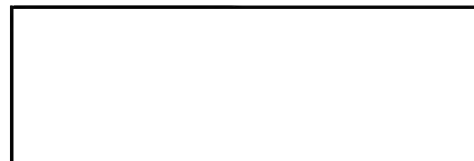


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West Germany - USSR - Berlin: Bonn is seeking to promote quick progress in the four-power Berlin talks as a complement to its own negotiations with Moscow on a renunciation of force agreement.

A West German Foreign Office official has presented the three Western allies with a formal outline of what the Brandt government would consider a "satisfactory" Berlin settlement. The West German draft, while acknowledging four-power responsibility for the city, implicitly calls for a recognition of the political status quo--that is, each power is sovereign in its own sector. Bonn asks that the four powers guarantee civilian access to and from West Berlin. For its part, Bonn would promise to reduce West German political activity in the city.

In general, the West Germans have been urging the Western allies to get into deeper substantive discussions with the Soviets on a Berlin solution at the next quadripartite ambassadorial meeting on 21 July. They have been pressing for a communiqué after the session that would indicate progress. It would serve to create a favorable atmosphere for Bonn's bilateral talks with Moscow and would answer domestic critics of Ostpolitik.

Recently the West Germans claim to have received feelers from the Soviets evincing an interest in opening formal negotiations soon on a renunciation of force agreement. The Germans are inclined to believe that the Soviets might give something on Berlin in order to facilitate a trip by Foreign Minister Scheel to Moscow, and have implied that the Western allies should capitalize on this.

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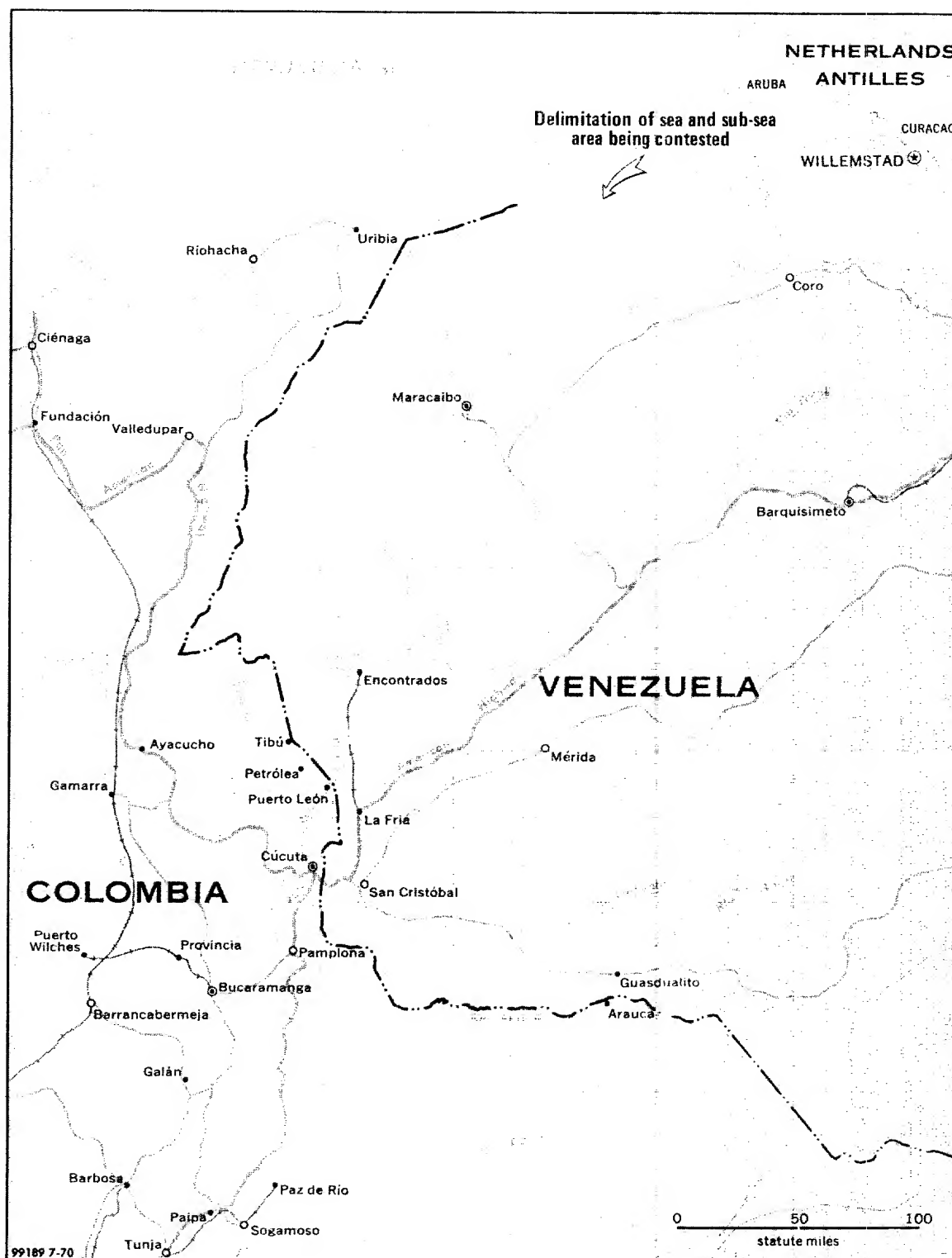
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Colombia-Venezuela: A long-dormant border problem is beginning to concern both governments more directly.

Strident anti-Colombian press reporting has been under way in Venezuela for several months; and the government has been considering ways to check the influence of the large numbers of Colombian immigrants in the border area. Venezuela also has been taking, at least unofficially, a stiffer attitude toward negotiations on the demarcation of the sea and seabed areas in the Gulf of Venezuela. This issue is especially troublesome because of the possibility that there are large oil deposits in the contested area.

Colombia has reacted by strengthening its defenses against border incursions by Venezuelan propaganda teams.

Although the leaders of both countries can be expected to proceed with caution, the issues on both sides are emotional as well as economic. It is likely that the frontier problem will receive increasing attention during coming months.

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